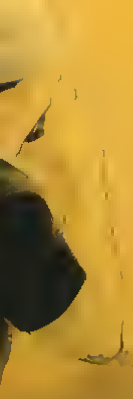

acme団 presents

SAIRUIU

by Hoko

chapter 6

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acmedan.blogspot.com

TO HATE WITHOUT TRYING

MASUMI!
WHO?
OHH.
ACTUALLY, IN HIS CASE...
I KNOW IT'S BEEN A WHILE, BUT...
MAN, THAT'S COLD.
SPEAKING OF POPULARITY, IS HE HERE?
AH...
TO WHOM? I'VE NEVER BEEN THAT POPULAR.
ANYWAY, JOKES ASIDE... YOU ARE GOING TO EVENTUALLY, RIGHT?
...HE'S PROBABLY JUST SICK OF THESE THINGS!
HAHAHA! I BET THAT'S IT!
BOMBING TWO ATTEMPTS WILL DO THAT TO YOU...
STILL, MUST BE NICE BEING SO POPULAR.
ANYWAY...
HE'S AN IDIOT, I TELL YOU.

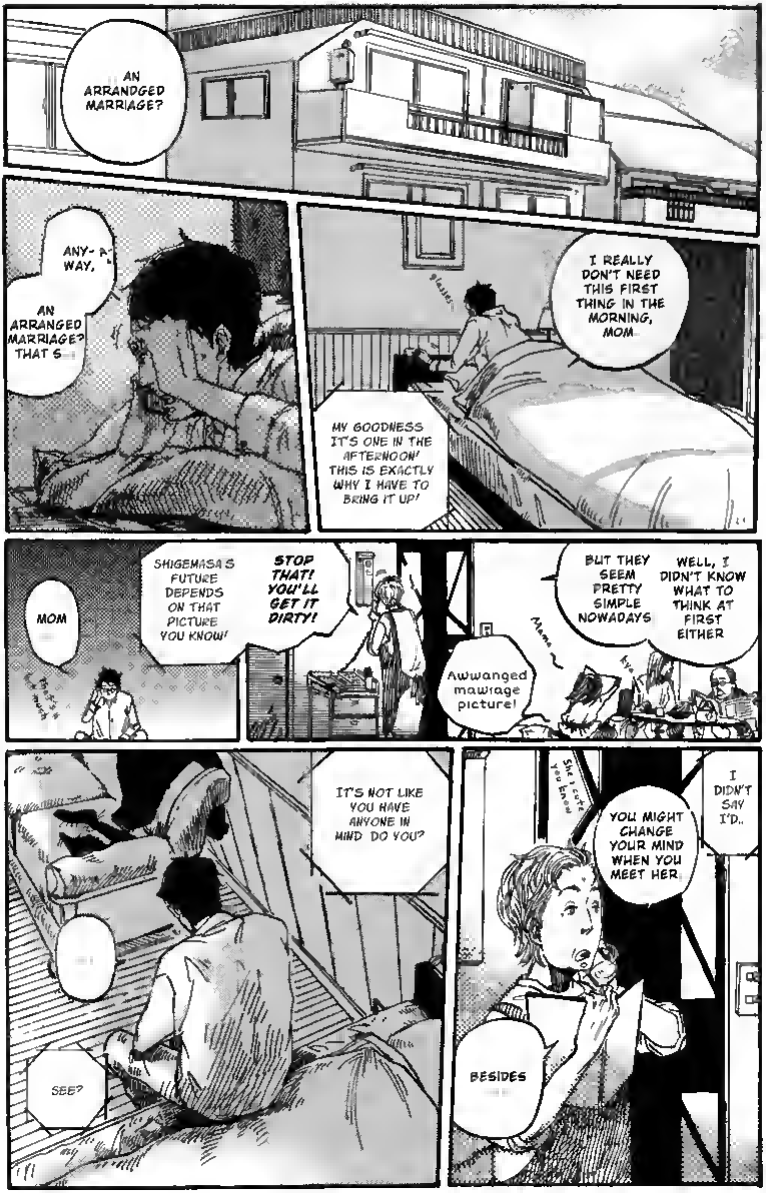
*Stall sign reads Oden

WELL, THAT'S A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION
WORKING ON YOUR DAY OFF?
OH, NO
I WAS AT A FRIEND'S WEDDING RECEPTION
HOW ABOUT A DRINK?
SO, THEN
OH
I'LL HAVE KELP, DAIKON RADISH AND A BOILED EGG PLEASE
Your order-?
SO WAS IT A GOOD RECEP-TION?
HMM

blow
blow
blow
I SEE GLAD TO HEAR IT
THEY SEEMED HAPPY
I THOUGHT SO
DON'T LIKE FISHCAKES?
WHAT?
NO.
IT'S NOTHING.
munch
munch

blow
blow
blow
blow
NO
NOT RIGHT NOW
ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT GETTING MARRIED OR ANYTHING?
REALLY?!
IS THAT TRUE?!
NO
NOT REAL-LY
IS THERE A PROBLEM?

HM?
ALREADY?
I
I'LL LEAVE MY PAYMENT HERE
THANKS FOR THE MEAL
Yup
clatter
おぐん
I CAN'T STAND FISHCAKES,
OR PEOPLE WHO LIKE THEM
echo
WHAT?
GOODBYE
Come again


AN ARRANDGED MARRIAGE?
ANY- WAY,
AN ARRANGED MARRIAGE? THAT S
I REALLY DON'T NEED THIS FIRST THING IN THE MORNING, MOM
MY GOODNESS IT'S ONE IN THE AFTERNOON! THIS IS EXACTLY WHY I HAVE TO BRING IT UP!
MOM
SHIGEMASA'S FUTURE DEPENDS ON THAT PICTURE YOU KNOW!
STOP THAT! YOU'LL GET IT DIRTY!
Awwanged mawwiage picture!
BUT THEY SEEM PRETTY SIMPLE NOWADAYS
WELL, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK AT FIRST EITHER
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU HAVE ANYONE IN MIND DO YOU?
SEE?
YOU MIGHT CHANGE YOUR MIND WHEN YOU MEET HER.
I DIDN'T SAY I'D..
BESIDES

...FINE
I'LL GO
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS COME OUT AND MEET HER THAT CAN'T BE SO HARD RIGHT?
WHERE SHOULD WE MEET?
---YEAH I KNOW
3PM IN THE LOBBY
SUNDAY? ALRIGHT
BYE
Haa

how
smile
...
HELLO
GOOD EVENING
DO YOU LIVE NEARBY?
THAT'S RIGHT.
SO, A DRINK?
shift
...
SNAP
?!

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT MARRIAGE?
slam!
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN!?
HMM... I WOULDN'T SAY THAT
IS IT REALLY SOMETHING WORTH DOING OVER AND OVER AGAIN?
A FRIEND OF MINE HAS BEEN DIVORCED TWICE NOW.
SNAP
I'M SURE EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN REASONS FOR SPLITTING UP.
BUT IN MY CASE...
THERE WAS SOMEONE I COULDN'T FORGET
I RECENTLY DIVORCED FOR THE THIRD TIME...
cough
ANY-WAY...

THIS WAS SOMEONE BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL
I GUESS IT TOOK ME ALL THIS TIME TO REALIZE IT
...BUT YOU GOT MARRIED ANYWAY?
BUT IT'S PROBABLY BEEN TOO LONG NOW HAHA
WELL
SO WHAT YOU'RE TELLING ME IS THAT YOU HAVE A ONE TRACK MIND.
I SEE
blow
blow
blow
PEOPLE MENTION IT A LOT WHEN THEY SEE HOW I EAT
YOU THINK SO?
YOU DON'T SEEM THE TYPE TO ME
MAYBE YOU'RE JUST IMAGINING IT

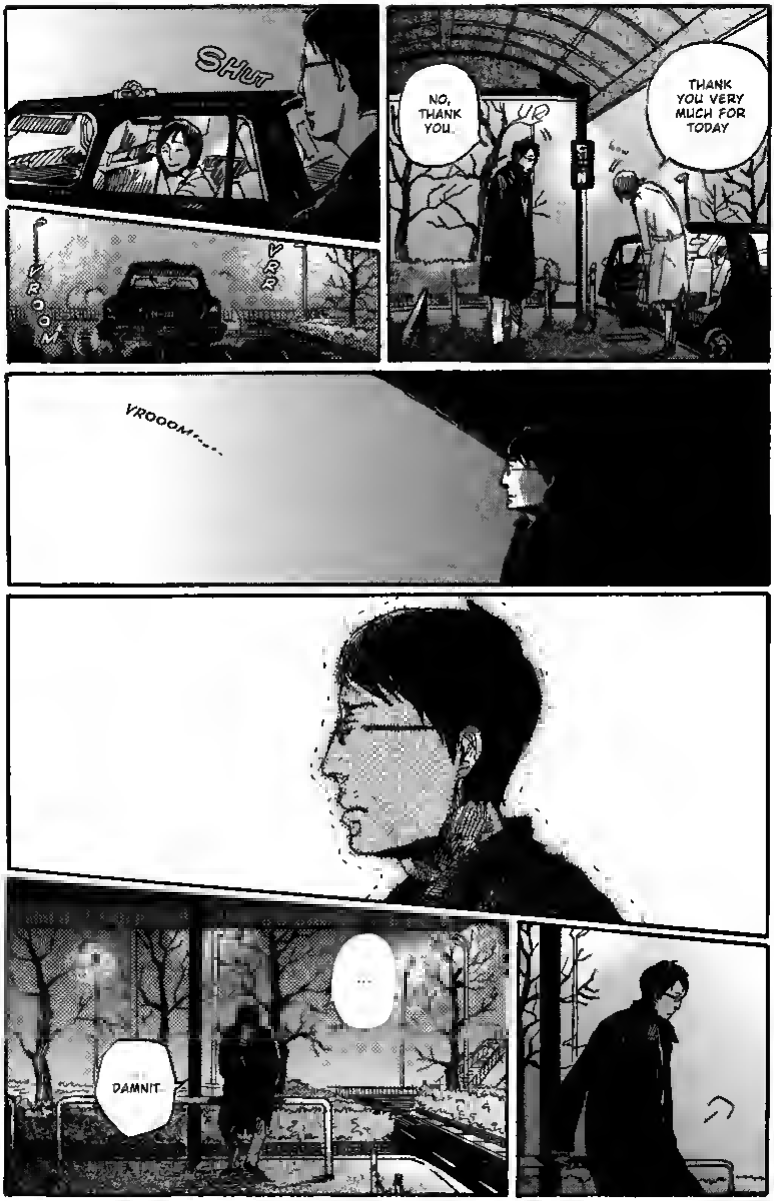
THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL
clatter
I'll
ALREADY?
I see.
Daily Schedule
BE MEETING WITH SOMEONE FOR AN ARRANGED MARRIAGE SOON
WHAT YOU HAD TO SAY WAS... INTERESTING
THANK YOU.
GOODBYE.

SO, TODAY UMM
UH ?
I'M SORRY FOR BEING SO AWKWARD
HAHA I SUPPOSE I'M A LITTLE NERVOUS, WITH JUST THE TWO OF US HERE

CASUAL MEETINGS LIKE THIS HAVE BEEN POPULAR LATELY
smile
I DIDN'T KNOW I ALMOST EXPECTED SOMETHING LIKE YOU SEE IN DRAMAS
SO DID I
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE WEARING A TRADITIONAL KIMONO
IN A TRADITIONAL RESTAURANT WITH A *SHISHI-ODOSHI IN THE BACKGROUND, RIGHT?
EXACTLY.
HAHA
Hehe
IT WAS DELICIOUS THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL.
NO
I'M NOT USED TO PLACES LIKE THIS.
HEHE
NOT AT ALL
I'M JUST GLAD YOU ENJOYED YOURSELF.
I GET ODEN ON MY WAY BACK FROM WORK SOMETIMES.
REALLY?
TO BE HONEST, I NORMALLY EAT AT FOOD STALLS.
OH, I LOVE ODEN!

*A shishi-odoshi is a bamboo tube used in water features. When the water empties, it clacks against a stone to scare animals from the garden.

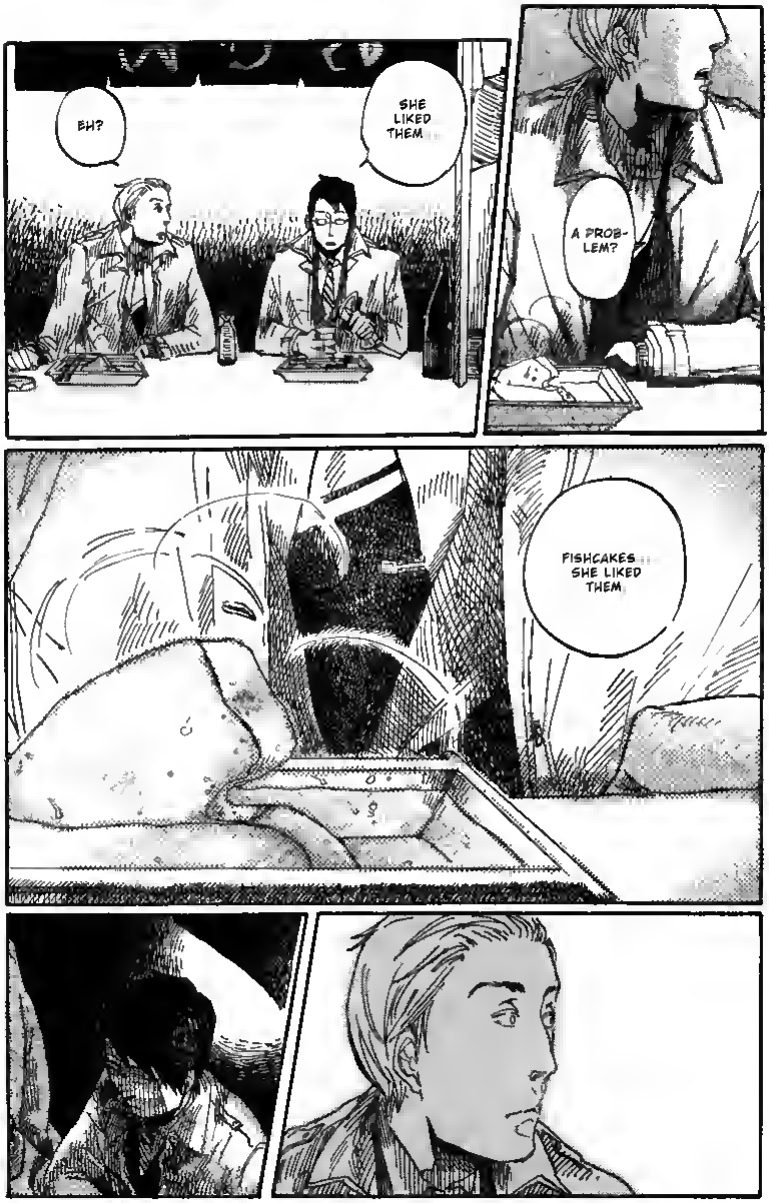
I'D SAY THAT FISHCAKES WERE MY FAVORITE
WHAT DO YOU LIKE THE MOST?
HM...
WELL...
UM,
I LIKE EVERYTHING, BUT IF I HAD TO CHOOSE...
JOLT
KUBOTA -SAN?
I'M SORRY I WAS DISTRACTED FOR A MOMENT THERE...


SHUT
VROOM
VROOM
NO, THANK YOU.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR TODAY
VROOOM.....
...
DAMNIT

おでん
OH!
GOOD EVENING.
...?
slack
slack
nod
nod

YES
IT'S A PLEASANT SURPRISE.
stare
WE SEEM TO MEET QUITE OFTEN...
HOW DID THE ARRANGED MARRIAGE MEETING GO?
CRACK
SO, A DRINK?
SO...
gulp
sigh

IT WENT FINE
SHE WAS NICE.
I'm sorry I'll replace it
ON SECOND THOUGHT, NEVER MIND...
SHE WAS CUTE, SMART HONEST AND FRIENDLY...
WE GOT ALONG WELL
OH... I SEE...
BUT YOU JUST SAID...
...HUH?
YOU'RE GOING TO GET MARRIED...?
SO...
THERE WAS JUST ONE PROBLEM...
gulp
WHO KNOWS

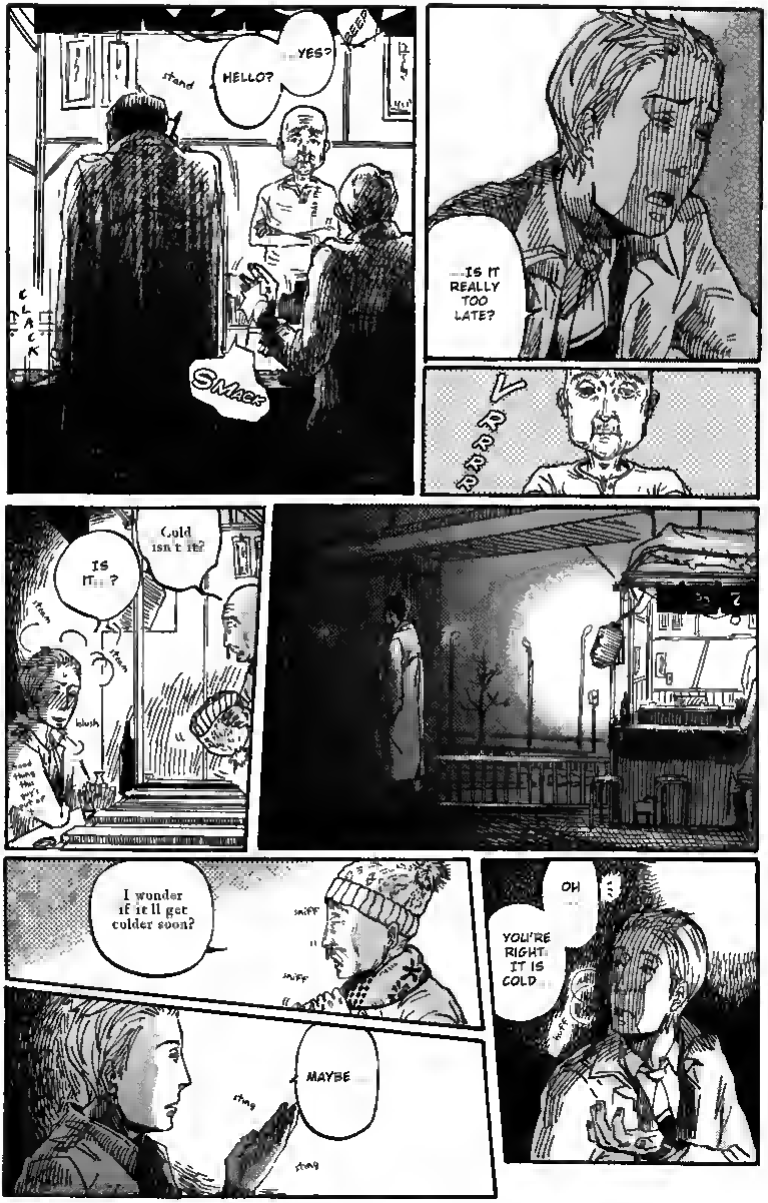

EH?
SHE LIKED THEM
A PROB-LEM?
FISHCAKES SHE LIKED THEM

KUBOTA, YOU...
CLACK
WHAT?
CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE, MASUMI?
Heh
BUT THAT'S ...!
THAT'S SUCH A...!
SUCH A...?
...THAT'S RIGHT!
shake
shake
SUCH A RIDICULOUS REASON...?
Ah...

NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRIED TO FORGET...
THIS WHOLE TIME, I'VE NEVER BEEN MARRIED FOR THAT ONE STUPID REASON
NO MATTER HOW LONG I DATED SOMEONE...
EVERY TIME I WAS REMINDED OF YOU!
YOU CALL KISSING SOMEONE IN THEIR SLEEP A CONFESSION?!
Tsutsui
FWIP
SNAP!
YOU THINK YOU CONFESSED?!
BUT, YOU... WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING WHEN I CONFESSED?
NO, EVEN BEFORE THEN.
THINGS HAD GOTTEN SO AWKWARD, I THOUGHT THAT...

AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
IF A PLAIN AND BORING PERSON LIKE ME
TOOK A POPULAR GUY LIKE YOU SERIOUSLY
I'D JUST GET LAUGHED AT
I WAS SURE IT WAS THE OTHER WAY AROUND I MEAN, LOOK AT ME
I WAS EVEN MORE STUPID THAN I AM NOW
HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD IT TOGETHER
IT'S NOT LIKE WE PARTIED OR ANYTHING,
BUT I STILL HAD THE MOST FUN WHEN I WAS WITH YOU
I WANTED TO BE WITH YOU
SO I-
STOP IT
IT'S TOO LATE FOR ME TO START BELIEVING YOU NOW
YOU GOT MARRIED THREE TIMES WITHOUT EVEN TELLING ME
ISN'T THAT YOUR ANSWER?

I WANT TO FORGET
JUST
GO AWAY
ALL I CAN SEE NOW IS HATE.
IT'S YOUR MEMORIES YOU CAN'T LET GO OF
AND I'M SORRY.
I WAS AN IDIOT FOR NOT REALIZING THAT UNTIL NOW. I KNOW THAT,
BUT...
...THIS ISN'T SOMETHING BRUSHED OFF SO EASILY AS THE PAST. THAT'S WHY I'M HERE


BEEP
YES?
HELLO?
stand
CLACK
SMACK
IS IT REALLY TOO LATE?
RRRR
Cold isn't it?
IS IT...?
shake
blush
OH
YOU'RE RIGHT. IT IS COLD
sniff
I wonder if it'll get colder soon?
MAYBE
shiver

GOODBYE
I...
YES
I'M SORRY, BUT THAT'S ALL
I REALLY...
REALLY DON'T LIKE THE COLD.
It's danger-ous
That's right
To your health
CLACK
KUBO-TA
EXCUSE ME
MAY I ORDER SOMETHING?
WAIT, JUST A-
CLUTCH
WHAT AM I DOING?
SUFF

でん
ONE FISHCAKE PLEASE
munch
blow
blow
hmm
...?
steam
SHFFF
ACTUALLY, ARE YOU ALRIGHT? I THOUGHT YOU...
HATED THOSE?
swallow
I TURNED DOWN THE ARRANGED MARRIAGE.
steam
steam
?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN-
blow
blow
blow
blow

?
REALLY? THEN WHY—?
clench
THE TRUTH IS, I DO LIKE THEM...
I'VE LIKED THEM THIS WHOLE TIME,
BUT I PRETENDED NOT TO NOTICE

SO YOU MEAN...
I'M LEAVING
CLACK
KUBOTA?!
THAT'S ALL YOU'RE GOING TO GET...
IF YOU WANT ME TO SAY MORE, I-
YOU HATED IT BEFORE YOU TRIED IT, RIGHT?!
I- I GET IT, I GET IT!
YOU MEAN

SORRY, BUT...
YOU'RE AS DENSE AS USUAL, HUH?
DON'T JUST LAUGH...
HEY, STOP LAUGHING ALREADY...
YOU'RE RIGHT. I SHOULDN'T HATE SOMETHING WITHOUT TRYING IT FIRST, SHOULD I?
HAHA...
So, why didn't you go to Itou's wedding?
I lost too much money in settlements.

End